

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-8.

According to MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. Applicants believe that the search of both of Groups I and II, claims 1-9, would not be an undue burden especially since most of the claims of Group I are in Group II, and *vice versa*. The only difference between these two Groups, both encompassing method claims, is the use of different primer sets.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin at least Group II¹¹ with Group I.

Regarding the election of species, this requirement is inapplicable as Applicants have not elected Group II or IV.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Thomas J. Siepmann, Ph.D., Registration No 57,374, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

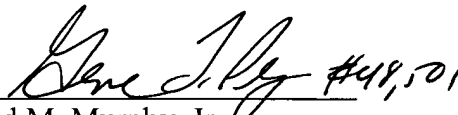
- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **AUG 22 2008**

Respectfully submitted,

By

 #48,501

Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.

Registration No.: 28,977

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicants